



## Carbon dynamics and land use carbon footprints in mangrove-converted aquaculture: The case of the Mahakam Delta, Indonesia

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### ABSTRACT

Mangroves provide a number of important ecosystem services to humanity but their persistence is threatened from deforestation, conversion, and climate change. The Mahakam Delta was once among the largest mangrove forests in Southeast Asia comprising 2% of Indonesia's total mangroves. Currently, about 62% of this extensive mangrove in the Mahakam Delta has been lost mainly due to conversion into aquaculture. To understand the impacts of mangrove conversion on carbon losses and therefore their values in climate change mitigation, we sampled 10 intact mangroves and 10 abandoned shrimp ponds to quantify: (1) the total ecosystem carbon stocks; (2) potential CO<sub>2</sub> emissions arising from mangrove conversion to shrimp ponds; and (3) the land use carbon footprints of shrimp production. The mean ecosystem carbon stocks in shrimp ponds ( $499 \pm 56 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$ ) was less than half of the relatively intact mangroves ( $1023 \pm 87 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$ ). This equates to a potential annual emission factor over 16 years following mangrove conversion of  $120 \text{ Mg CO}_2\text{e ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ , which is similar with the total carbon loss from land conversion in freshwater tropical peat swamp forests. Inclusion of C losses from land use/cover change in a life cycle analysis (i.e., the land use carbon footprint) resulted in an estimated 2250 kg CO<sub>2e</sub> emitted for every kg of shrimp produced in mangrove-converted ponds. Conversion of mangroves to shrimp ponds in the Mahakam Delta resulted in a carbon loss equivalent to 226 years of soil carbon accumulation in natural mangroves. Conservation of mangroves are of great value for inclusion in climate change mitigation strategies because of their large carbon stocks, the large carbon emissions generated from land use, and the potentially long period of time required to recover carbon stocks following abandonment.

### 1. Introduction

Mangrove ecosystems are wetlands consisting of woody vegetation that occur in intertidal marine and brackish environments (Giesen et al., 2007). They are distributed along coasts in tropical and subtropical regions between approximately 30°N and 30°S latitude (Giri et al., 2010). Indonesia has 29,000–31,894 km<sup>2</sup> of mangroves which is more than any other country on earth (i.e. 21–23% of the global total; FAO, 2007; Giri et al., 2010; Spalding et al., 2010).

Mangrove ecosystems provide many valuable ecological functions and services such as fish habitat (Alongi, 2009; Nagelkerken et al.,

2008), timber, thatch and fuels (Blasco et al., 1996), habitat for endemic animals and organisms (Nagelkerken et al., 2008) and they provide coastal protection from extreme events such as tsunamis and hurricanes (Alongi, 2008; Giri et al., 2008, 2010). They also store and sequester relatively large quantities of carbon (Donato et al., 2011; Mitsch et al., 2012; Murdiyarso et al., 2015; Kauffman et al., 2017).

Farmed shrimp is now the largest seafood commodity accounting for 15% of the total value of all fishery products traded internationally in 2012 (FAO, 2014). A global export market for shrimp has led to large areas of mangrove loss (Bosma et al., 2012; Ilman et al., 2011; Pendleton et al., 2012). Aquaculture pond establishment has been the

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main cause of mangrove deforestation in Asia (FAO, 2007; Giri et al., 2008) followed by conversion to agriculture (oil palm plantations, pasture, etc.), urban development, infrastructure and tourism (Duke et al., 2007; FAO, 2007; Giri et al., 2008).

Land use change in mangrove ecosystems generates significant CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Kauffman et al., 2017; Pendleton et al., 2012; Werf et al., 2010). Between 1980 and 2005 Indonesia lost about 30% of its mangrove forests which is equivalent to an annual deforestation rate of 1.24% or an estimate of 0.19 Pg CO<sub>2e</sub> yr<sup>-1</sup> (FAO, 2007; Murdiyarso et al., 2015).

While rates of land conversion of mangroves are high, very few studies have analyzed the carbon footprint from shrimp production that includes the emissions arising from land use/cover change (Järviö et al., 2017; Kauffman et al., 2017). This loss, when included in life cycle analyses, is termed the land use carbon footprint and is defined as the quantity of greenhouse gases produced from the land conversion that is required to produce any given commodity (Kauffman et al., 2017). The objectives of this study were to quantify the total carbon stocks in mangroves and abandoned shrimp ponds, the potential carbon emissions arising from mangrove conversion, and the estimated land use carbon footprint of shrimp produced in the Mahakam Delta, Indonesia.

We hypothesized that: (1) the ecosystem C stocks in intact mangroves are significantly higher than in shrimp ponds; (2) mangrove conversion to shrimp ponds will generate substantial carbon emissions to the atmosphere because of significant losses (oxidation) of the aboveground pools and soil carbon; and (3) potential CO<sub>2</sub> emissions arising from mangrove conversion to shrimp ponds result in a very high ecosystem carbon footprint from aquaculture ponds.

## 2. Materials and methods

### 2.1. Study area

The Mahakam Delta is a deltaic plain on the Eastern coast of Kalimantan (Borneo) Island, Indonesia. The Mahakam Basin is approximately 75,000 km<sup>2</sup> in area. The Mahakam River 900 km in length (Sassi et al., 2011; Storms et al., 2005) and is located between 0°18' and 0°54' South latitude, and 117°18' and 117°36' East longitude (Rahman et al., 2013). The delta was developed in the late-Holocene during the past 5000 years and has a distinct network of fluvial and tidal channels forming a lobate, fan shaped delta (Fig. 1; Storms et al., 2005).

Before 1950, the natural mangrove vegetation of the Mahakam Delta was relatively undisturbed. It was dominated by *Nypa palm* (*Nypa fruticans*; 50% of the delta area), freshwater tidal forests (17%) and broadleaved mangroves at the lowest reaches (33%) (van Zwieten et al., 2006). The development of aquaculture ponds was largely concentrated in the broadleaved mangroves until recently (Bourgeois et al., 2002). Rahman et al. (2013) estimated that 21,000 ha mangroves in the Mahakam Delta had been converted to shrimp ponds between 2000 and 2011. Mangrove deforestation in the Mahakam Delta from 1994 to 2015 totaled 59,480 ha, with about 36,820 ha of mangroves remaining in 2015 (Aslan, 2017). They reported that with a deforestation rate of 4.48% year<sup>-1</sup>, about 62% of mangroves had been lost during this 21 year period.

The shrimp ponds in the Mahakam Delta are largely low input/low production operations that depend upon tides to fill and drain ponds. During the first year of pond establishment these ponds produce around 100–300 kg of shrimp ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup> (Bosma et al., 2012). After 5 years, the average shrimp production in the ponds in the Mahakam Delta significantly decreases to 45 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup> (Noryadi et al., 2006). Decreased aquaculture productivity, sea level rise, diseases, and harvest failures ultimately results in abandonment of ponds (Bosma et al., 2012).

We quantified ecosystem carbon stocks in ten mangrove communities and ten abandoned shrimp ponds formed in mangroves across the

Mahakam Delta (Fig. 1). The mangrove communities and abandoned shrimp ponds were polyhaline and mesohaline estuarine ecosystems (Mitsch and Gosselink, 2007) with soil pore salinity ranging from 13 to 25 ppt.

### 2.2. Field sampling and data analysis

Field measurements closely follow methods outlined in Kauffman and Donato (2012). Carbon stock measurements were conducted by establishing a linear transect that contained six plots of 7 m radius (0.0154 ha) at each site. Each transect was 125 m in length with plots established every 25 m. The transects were positioned randomly and perpendicular to the marine or river ecotone. We estimated tree biomass by measuring tree diameter at 1.3 m height (diameter at breast height) or 30 cm above the highest prop roots for *Rhizophora* spp. Above and belowground biomass of the trees were estimated using species specific allometric equations (Table A). Standing dead wood and downed wood were measured according to the methods outlined in Kauffman and Donato (2012).

Soil carbon pools were collected at the six plots at each site. We measured the soil depth utilizing an open-face peat auger of 6.4 cm radius around the plot center (Kauffman et al., 2014). The soil C stocks were measured by collecting soil samples at the following depths: 0–15 cm, 15–30 cm, 30–50 cm, 50–100 cm and 100–300 cm (Kauffman and Donato, 2012). At each depth interval, a 5 cm sub-sample was collected for laboratory analysis of bulk density and carbon concentration. Soil porewater salinity and pH were measured at each plot.

Mangrove conversion to shrimp ponds has resulted in soil compaction/collapse, thus resulting in increased bulk density and decreased soil porosity (Batey and McKenzie, 2006; Germer et al., 2010). As such, there would be more soil mass in the top 3 m of soils in the abandoned ponds compared to mangroves. Hence, a more realistic comparison would include differences based upon the equivalent soil mass in mangroves and shrimp ponds rather than volume. Comparisons were based on the same mineral soil mass occurring in the top 3 m of soils in mangroves (Kauffman et al., 1998; Kauffman et al., 2015). Mineral soil mass was calculated through subtraction of the carbon density from the total soil bulk density. Soil C density (C<sub>d</sub>) was calculated as soil bulk density multiplied by soil C concentration (Warren et al., 2012). The soil C stocks of shrimp ponds were then calculated based on equivalent soil mass of the adjacent mangrove forests. Similar methods had been applied to estimate C losses from conversion to cattle pastures in the Amazon and Mexico (Kauffman et al., 1998, 2015) and is a conservative estimation on carbon loss as it assumes there was no erosional losses from the site (Kauffman et al., 2015).

### 2.3. Ecosystem carbon stocks and potential emissions

The ecosystem carbon stocks were estimated by summing all carbon pools (IPCC, 2006; Eq. B.1). The potential emissions arising from mangrove conversion into abandoned shrimp ponds were calculated by stock-difference method to estimate emissions due to land use change (IPCC, 2006; Kauffman et al., 2015; Eq. B.2).

### 2.4. Land use carbon footprints of shrimp production

We determined the land use carbon footprint of shrimp produced from mangrove conversion in the Mahakam Delta using the approach described by Kauffman et al. (2017) (Eq. B.3). The total ecosystem C loss (C<sub>conv</sub>) is the potential CO<sub>2</sub> emissions arising from mangrove conversion to shrimp ponds calculated using stock difference method (IPCC, 2006). N<sub>2</sub>O emissions (eN<sub>2</sub>O) from shrimp production during active use was assumed to be 1.69 g N<sub>2</sub>O kg<sup>-1</sup> of shrimp produced (Hu et al., 2012). The global warming potential (GWP) of N<sub>2</sub>O was assumed to be 298 (Myhre et al., 2013). Therefore, the N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from shrimp production during active use is equal to 503.6 g CO<sub>2e</sub> kg<sup>-1</sup> of

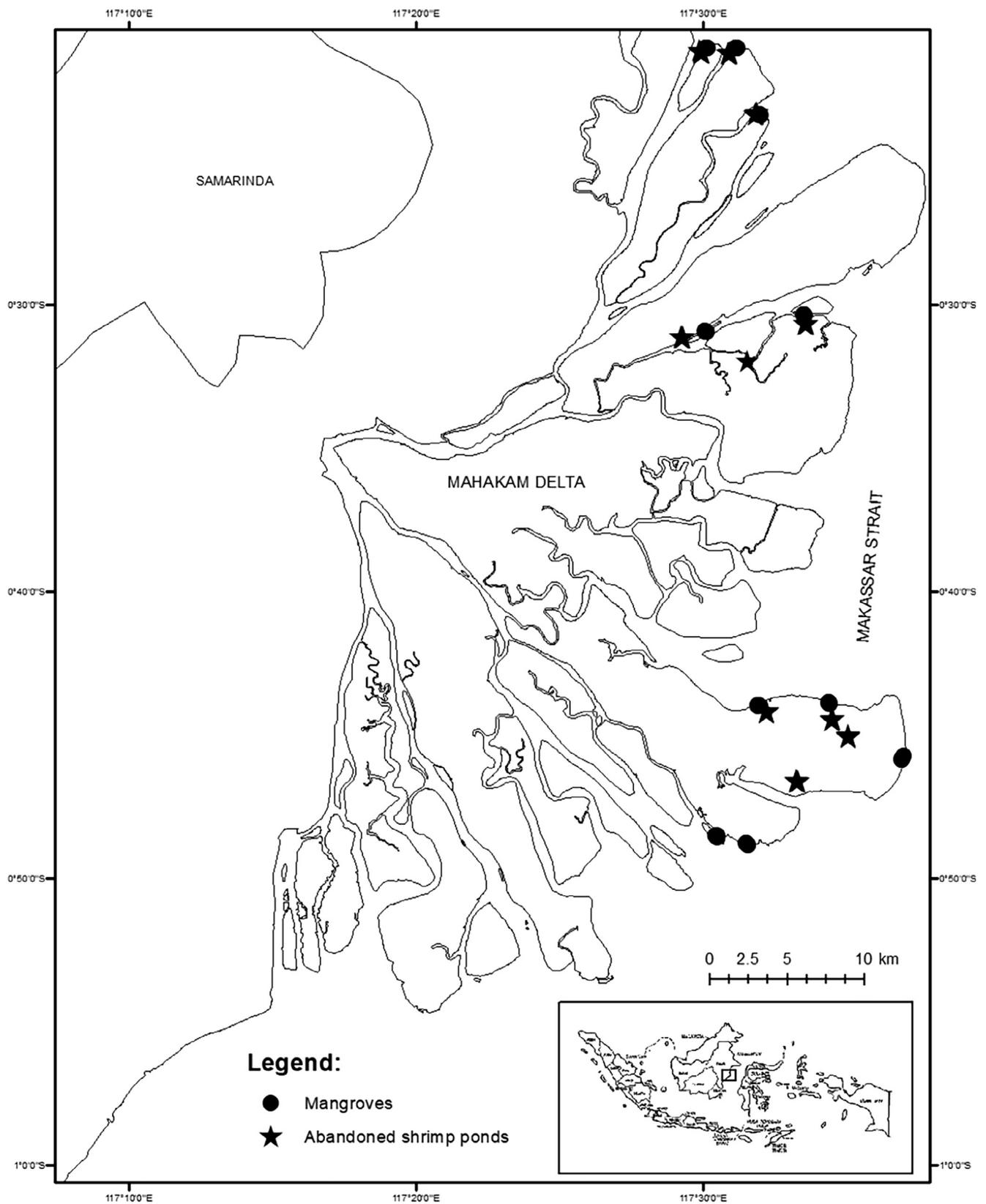


Fig. 1. Study plots across the Mahakam Delta, East Kalimantan, Indonesia. The ecosystem carbon stocks of 10 mangroves and 10 abandoned shrimp ponds were sampled in 2013–2014.

shrimp produced. We did not include CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from shrimp production with the assumption that high salinity in pond's waters (> 18 ppt) will suppress methanogenesis due to competition by the more energetically efficient sulfate-reducing bacteria (Biswas et al., 2007;

Poffenbarger et al., 2011).

The proportion of edible shrimp meat is assumed to be 45% (Kauffman et al., 2017). Based on interviews with the pond owners of our sampling sites, the mean life cycle of a shrimp pond ( $P_{life}$ ) in the

Mahakam Delta was 16 years (ranging from 11 to 21 years).

The major product of the shrimp ponds in the Mahakam Delta is the black tiger shrimp (*Peneaus monodon*) (Bosma et al., 2012) which is a highly valued export commodity for Japan, China, USA and many European countries (Ilman et al., 2009). Based upon our interviews and reports from the Statistics Agency and Marine and Fisheries Agency of Kutai Kartanegara Regency (Badan Pusat Statistik Kabupaten Kutai Kartanegara, 2010, 2013; Dinas Kelautan dan Perikanan Kabupaten Kutai Kartanegara, 2016), we took a mid-point of tiger shrimp production ( $P_{\text{prod}}$ ) of  $56 \text{ kg ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$  or equivalent to  $878 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$  during the mean life cycle of the ponds (16 years). Assuming that the edible meat of shrimp is 45%, then the estimated total productivity of edible tiger shrimp meat during the lifetime of a pond is  $395 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$ .

In addition to tiger shrimp, pond owners also grow spotted shrimp (*Metapeneaus brevisrostris*) (Bosma et al., 2012) and white shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) in their ponds (Badan Pusat Statistik Kabupaten Kutai Kartanegara, 2010, 2013; Dinas Kelautan dan Perikanan Kabupaten Kutai Kartanegara, 2016). Our interviews with the pond owners showed a mean production of all shrimp species of  $123 \text{ kg ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$  (ranging from  $90$  to  $160 \text{ kg ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ) from three harvests per year in the Mahakam Delta. This was close to other studies in the Mahakam Delta who reported a mean shrimp production of  $125 \text{ kg ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$  (van Zwieten et al., 2006). A 2016 report on aquaculture shrimp production in the Mahakam Delta reported a mean of  $114 \text{ kg ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$  (Dinas Kelautan dan Perikanan Kabupaten Kutai Kartanegara, 2016). If we took a mid-point of the overall shrimp species production at  $121 \text{ kg ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$  or equivalent to  $1902 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$  during its ponds' lifetime, the edible shrimp meat produced would be estimated at  $856 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$  or about twice as much as the tiger shrimp meat production. The shrimp productivity of the Mahakam Delta is lower than global means of shrimp productivity in extensive/low input ponds (Kauffman et al., 2017; Tacon, 2002).

## 2.5. Statistical analysis

Differences in soil properties, biomass and ecosystem carbon stocks among land use types (mangroves and abandoned shrimp ponds) were assessed utilizing analysis of variance (ANOVA). A post-hoc Tukey's honest significant difference (HSD) test was applied to determine the significance of means when the ANOVA result was significant. A Kruskal-Wallis non-parametric significance test was applied when the data were not normally distributed. Data normality was analyzed based on the Shapiro-Wilk tests. A *t*-test was applied to determine the difference of two normally distributed data sets. Statistical analyses were conducted using Microsoft Excel and IBM SPSS Statistics 22.0.

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Aboveground biomass and forest structure

There were great differences in the composition and structure between the mangroves and abandoned shrimp ponds. Mangroves had approximately 3-fold greater tree density ( $4283 \pm 563 \text{ ha}^{-1}$ ;  $p < 0.0001$ ) and 25 times the basal area ( $45 \pm 8 \text{ m}^2 \text{ ha}^{-1}$ ;  $p < 0.0001$ ) of the shrimp ponds (tree density  $1316 \pm 330 \text{ ha}^{-1}$ ; basal area  $2 \pm 1 \text{ m}^2 \text{ ha}^{-1}$ ) (Table 1). The majority of the dominant mangrove trees in the Mahakam Delta (*Avicennia alba*, *Bruguiera sexangula* and *Rhizophora apiculata*) had a diameter range of 5 to 10 cm.

We found significant differences in the aboveground C stocks (trees and downed wood) in the mangroves compared to the shrimp ponds. The mean aboveground C stocks of mangroves ( $118 \text{ Mg} \pm 8 \text{ C ha}^{-1}$ ) was 8-fold higher than the abandoned shrimp ponds ( $14 \pm 4 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$ ) ( $p < 0.0001$ ). The highest aboveground C stock of mangroves was found in Tunu Island ( $163 \pm 65 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$ ) and the lowest in Lerong Island ( $84 \pm 9 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$ ) (Table 2).

### 3.2. Belowground carbon stocks

The average root carbon stock in the mangroves was  $27 \pm 4 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$  and differed significantly from the abandoned shrimp ponds ( $2 \pm 1 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$ ;  $p < 0.0001$ ). The root biomass accounted for 3% and 0.3% of the total ecosystem carbon stocks in the mangroves and abandoned shrimp ponds respectively. Soil porewater salinity in mangroves ranged from 10 to 25 ppt (mean of  $17 \pm 0$  ppt), while porewater salinity of abandoned shrimp ponds ranged from 10 to 35 ppt (mean of  $20 \pm 1$  ppt;  $p < 0.001$ ; Table 1).

Soil bulk density was significantly higher in abandoned shrimp ponds at 0–15 cm, 15–30 cm and 30–50 cm depths (Tukey HSD;  $p < 0.002$ ,  $p = 0.17$  and  $p = 0.07$  respectively; Table C). When the data are pooled, we observed significant increases in soil bulk density with depth in the shrimp ponds and mangroves (*t*-test;  $p < 0.001$ ) (Fig. 2a). The mean bulk density in the mangroves differed significantly when testing between the upper (0–100 cm;  $0.47 \pm 0.02 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ ) and lower depths (100–300 cm;  $0.58 \pm 0.02 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ ) ( $p < 0.001$ ). The same trend was observed in the abandoned ponds, where the mean bulk density at 0–100 cm ( $0.52 \pm 0.02 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ ) was significantly different to that at 100–300 cm ( $0.62 \pm 0.17 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ ) (*t*-test;  $p = 0.001$ ).

Soil carbon concentrations tended to decrease with depth (Fig. 2b). In mangroves, we found that the mean soil C concentration at 0–100 cm and 100–300 cm were  $8.6 \pm 0.8\%$  and  $5.4 \pm 0.5\%$  respectively (*t*-test;  $p < 0.001$ ). In contrast to the mangroves, there were no significant differences between the mean soil C concentration in the upper 100 cm ( $4.9 \pm 0.2\%$ ) and deeper layer (100–300 cm) ( $4.4 \pm 0.1\%$ ) in the abandoned shrimp ponds (*t*-test;  $p = 0.1$ ). Generally, we found highly significant differences of soil C concentration between mangroves and abandoned ponds at 0–15 cm, 15–30 cm and 30–50 cm depths (Tukey HSD;  $p < 0.0001$ ,  $p = 0.001$  and  $p = 0.006$  respectively).

Soil carbon density in the mangroves and abandoned shrimp ponds declined consistently with depth (Fig. 2c). The mean mangrove soil C density at the upper 1 m ( $0.032 \pm 0.001 \text{ mg cm}^{-3}$ ) and deeper layer  $> 1 \text{ m}$  ( $0.028 \pm 0.002 \text{ mg cm}^{-3}$ ) was significantly different (*t*-test;  $p = 0.002$ ). In contrast, there was no significant difference between the upper 1 m and  $> 1 \text{ m}$  soil C density in the abandoned ponds (*t*-test;  $p = 0.57$ ) (Table C). Soil carbon density in mangroves was generally higher than in shrimp ponds at 0–15 cm and 30–50 cm depths (Tukey HSD;  $p = 0.001$  and  $p = 0.41$  respectively).

Soils at all sites exceeded 3 m in depth, but we limited our measurements of soil carbon pools to 3 m. Using the soil mass equivalence, we found a significant difference between the soils of mangroves to that of the abandoned shrimp ponds ( $p < 0.0001$ ). Due to soil collapse in ponds, the soil mass of the surface 3 m in mangroves was equivalent in mass to a mean soil depth of  $191 \pm 26 \text{ cm}$  in the abandoned shrimp ponds (ranging from 89 to 297 cm) (Table 2). Based upon equivalent soil mass, the mean soil carbon stocks in the mangroves was  $879 \pm 83 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$  and  $486 \pm 55 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$  in shrimp ponds (Table 2).

### 3.3. Total ecosystem carbon stocks

There was a highly significant difference between the total ecosystem carbon stocks of the mangroves and the abandoned shrimp ponds (Kruskal-Wallis;  $p < 0.001$ ). The mean total ecosystem carbon stocks in the mangroves was  $1023 \pm 87 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$  which ranged from  $704 \pm 86 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$  to  $1663 \pm 222 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$ . In contrast, the mean ecosystem carbon stocks for abandoned shrimp ponds was 2-fold lower ( $499 \pm 56 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$ ) (Table 2). Soil carbon in mangroves and abandoned shrimp ponds accounted for 86% and 97% of the total ecosystem carbon stocks.

**Table 1**

General description of the sampling sites (mangroves and abandoned shrimp ponds) in the Mahakam Delta, East Kalimantan, Indonesia. Values are mean  $\pm$  standard error unless noted otherwise.

Mangrove site	Type	Latitude	Longitude	Dominant species	Salinity (ppt)	Tree density (trees ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Basal area (m <sup>2</sup> ha <sup>-1</sup> )
Tunu	Mangrove	S 0°30.324'	E117°33.518'	<i>Rhizophora</i> sp.	19	2412 $\pm$ 668	19 $\pm$ 8
Salette	Mangrove	S 0°30.903'	E117°30.067'	<i>Rhizophora</i> sp., <i>Avicennia</i> sp.	15	3620 $\pm$ 1630	16 $\pm$ 5
Bayur	Mangrove	S 0°43.961'	E117°31.882'	<i>Rhizophora</i> sp.	19	4013 $\pm$ 1823	35 $\pm$ 12
Labu-labu	Mangrove	S 0°43.892'	E117°34.396'	<i>Bruguiera sexangula</i> , <i>A. alba</i>	21	3892 $\pm$ 1132	24 $\pm$ 8
Muara Berau	Mangrove	S 0°21.032'	E117°30.144'	<i>Avicennia marina</i>	14	3794 $\pm$ 1269	81 $\pm$ 38
Lerong	Mangrove	S 0°21.050'	E117°31.190'	<i>Avicennia alba</i>	13	5573 $\pm$ 1445	47 $\pm$ 20
Kadutan	Mangrove	S 0°23.369'	E117°32.005'	<i>A. corniculatum</i> / <i>Bruguiera</i> sp.	13	8479 $\pm$ 2249	97 $\pm$ 51
Rinding	Mangrove	S 0°48.494'	E117°30.442'	<i>Avicennia alba</i>	19	2120 $\pm$ 752	32 $\pm$ 9
Kanyuran	Mangrove	S 0°48.751'	E117°31.486'	<i>Avicennia alba</i>	16	4250 $\pm$ 1228	46 $\pm$ 22
Banjar	Mangrove	S 0°45.846'	E117°36.923'	<i>Bruguiera sexangula</i>	21	4674 $\pm$ 1420	54 $\pm$ 17
Mean					17	4283 $\pm$ 563	45 $\pm$ 8
Abandoned pond site	Type	Latitude	Longitude	Dominant species	Salinity (ppt)	Tree density (trees ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Basal area (m <sup>2</sup> ha <sup>-1</sup> )
Tunu	Abandoned Pond	S 0°30.667'	E117°33.521'	Bare ground with natural regeneration (grass and <i>Rhizophora</i> sp.)	21	1393 $\pm$ 381	0.3 $\pm$ 0.04
Bayur	Abandoned Pond	S 0°44.204'	E117°32.18'	Bare ground with natural regeneration	24	1318 $\pm$ 341	2 $\pm$ 1
Lerong	Abandoned Pond	S 0°21.032'	E117°30.144'	Bare ground with wood debris	18	0.00	0.00
Kadutan	Abandoned Pond	S 0°23.323'	E117°31.852'	Bare ground with natural regeneration (grass)	16	0.00	0.00
Muara Berau	Abandoned Pond	S 0°21.187'	E117°29.896'	Bare ground with wood debris	13	0.00	0.00
Salette	Abandoned Pond	S 0°30.667'	E117°33.521'	Abandoned pond with natural regeneration	14	1258 $\pm$ 692	4 $\pm$ 2
Sepatin	Abandoned Pond	S 0°45.009'	E117°35.029'	Abandoned pond with natural regeneration	24	1294 $\pm$ 218	5 $\pm$ 1
Benati Dalam	Abandoned Pond	S 0°44.469'	E117°34.458'	Abandoned pond with natural regeneration	21	3205 $\pm$ 1237	1 $\pm$ 0.4
Tanjung Nipah	Abandoned Shrimp Pond	S 0°31.953'	E117°31.514'	Abandoned pond with natural regeneration	25	2060 $\pm$ 707	2 $\pm$ 1
Perangat	Abandoned Pond	S 0°46.609'	E117°33.236'	Bare ground	23	0.00	0.00
Mean					20	1316 $\pm$ 330	2 $\pm$ 1

### 3.4. Potential carbon emissions and emission factors

Mangrove conversion to abandoned shrimp ponds resulted in a mean carbon loss of 525 Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup>. Assuming these are losses to the

atmosphere, this is a potential carbon emission equivalent of 1925 Mg CO<sub>2</sub>e ha<sup>-1</sup>. Most of the emissions were derived from soil loss which accounted for about 80% of the total emission (1536 Mg CO<sub>2</sub>e ha<sup>-1</sup>). The remaining 20% of the emission came from the aboveground loss

**Table 2**

Carbon stocks of mangroves and abandoned shrimp ponds in the Mahakam Delta, Indonesia. AG and BG indicate aboveground and belowground pools respectively. Mean soil depths of abandoned shrimp ponds are based on mangrove soil mass equivalent to 300 cm. Values are mean  $\pm$  standard error.

No.	Mangroves	AG (Mg C ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Root (Mg C ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Soil (Mg C ha <sup>-1</sup> )	BG (Mg C ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Ecosystem (Mg C ha <sup>-1</sup> )	
1	Tunu	163 $\pm$ 65	52 $\pm$ 21	1054 $\pm$ 91	1106 $\pm$ 89	1269 $\pm$ 112	
2	Salette	111 $\pm$ 36	26 $\pm$ 9	746 $\pm$ 62	772 $\pm$ 64	883 $\pm$ 76	
3	Bayur	122 $\pm$ 25	31 $\pm$ 7	907 $\pm$ 27	939 $\pm$ 32	1061 $\pm$ 54	
4	Labu-labu	135 $\pm$ 33	28 $\pm$ 14	783 $\pm$ 60	811 $\pm$ 68	946 $\pm$ 83	
5	Muara Berau	113 $\pm$ 38	15 $\pm$ 4	849 $\pm$ 117	863 $\pm$ 115	976 $\pm$ 108	
6	Lerong	84 $\pm$ 9	29 $\pm$ 7	656 $\pm$ 73	685 $\pm$ 69	769 $\pm$ 67	
7	Kadutan	146 $\pm$ 53	29 $\pm$ 9	867 $\pm$ 114	896 $\pm$ 123	1042 $\pm$ 174	
8	Rinding	111 $\pm$ 28	16 $\pm$ 3	795 $\pm$ 49	810 $\pm$ 50	921 $\pm$ 62	
9	Kanyuran	93 $\pm$ 35	14 $\pm$ 7	598 $\pm$ 78	612 $\pm$ 77	704 $\pm$ 86	
10	Banjar	99 $\pm$ 26	33 $\pm$ 8	1532 $\pm$ 209	1564 $\pm$ 212	1663 $\pm$ 222	
	Mean	118 $\pm$ 8	27 $\pm$ 4	879 $\pm$ 83	906 $\pm$ 85	1023 $\pm$ 87	
No.	Abandoned ponds	AG (Mg C ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Root (Mg C ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Soil (Mg C ha <sup>-1</sup> )	BG (Mg C ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Ecosystem (Mg C ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Mass equivalence to mangrove soil depth (cm)
1	Tunu	1 $\pm$ 0	0.1 $\pm$ 0	232 $\pm$ 51	232 $\pm$ 51	233 $\pm$ 50	89
2	Bayur	5 $\pm$ 9	1 $\pm$ 0.5	240 $\pm$ 33	241 $\pm$ 34	245 $\pm$ 34	109
3	Lerong	3 $\pm$ 1	–	500 $\pm$ 53	500 $\pm$ 53	504 $\pm$ 52	171
4	Kadutan	15 $\pm$ 4	0	717 $\pm$ 26	717 $\pm$ 26	731 $\pm$ 26	297
5	Muara Berau	3 $\pm$ 1	0	592 $\pm$ 46	592 $\pm$ 46	595 $\pm$ 45	261
6	Salette	33 $\pm$ 2	4 $\pm$ 3	374 $\pm$ 80	377 $\pm$ 80	410 $\pm$ 76	94
7	Sepatin	32 $\pm$ 9	10 $\pm$ 1	637 $\pm$ 67	646 $\pm$ 66	678 $\pm$ 59	249
8	Benati Dalam	20 $\pm$ 15	1 $\pm$ 1	534 $\pm$ 84	537 $\pm$ 84	558 $\pm$ 81	259
9	Tanjung Nipah	3 $\pm$ 2	1 $\pm$ 1	367 $\pm$ 70	368 $\pm$ 70	371 $\pm$ 69	110
10	Perangat	–	0.00	663 $\pm$ 52	663 $\pm$ 52	663 $\pm$ 52	264
	Mean	12 $\pm$ 4	2 $\pm$ 1	486 $\pm$ 55	487 $\pm$ 55	499 $\pm$ 56	190 $\pm$ 26

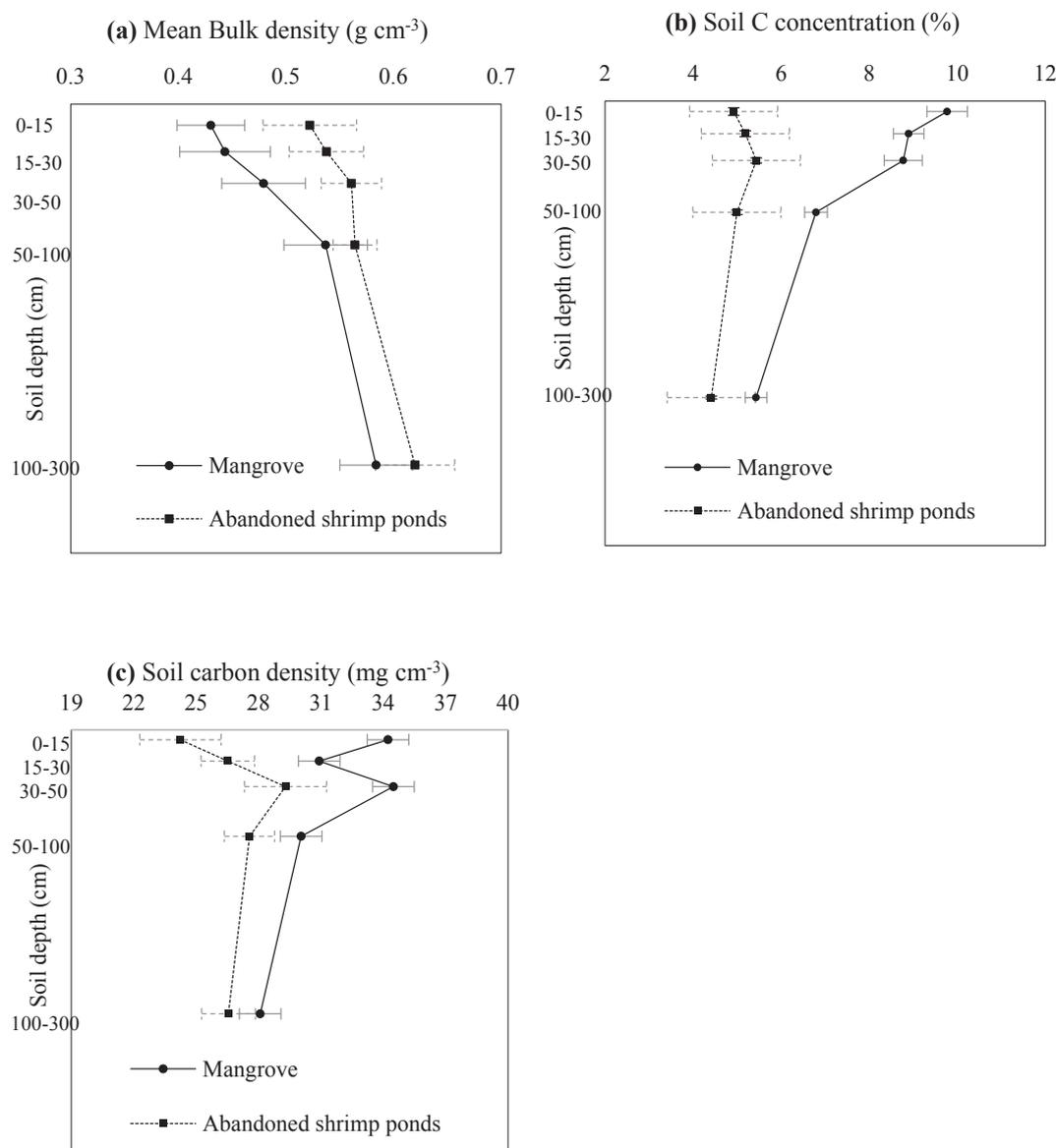


Fig. 2. (a) Soil bulk density ( $\text{g cm}^{-3}$ ) in mangroves and abandoned ponds at the midpoints of the sampled depths. (b) Soil carbon concentration (%) of mangroves and shrimp ponds decreased with depths. (c) Soil carbon density ( $\text{mg cm}^{-3}$ ) in mangroves and abandoned shrimp ponds. Error bars represent the standard error of the mean.

( $389 \text{ Mg CO}_2\text{e ha}^{-1}$ ), assuming 100% was lost to the atmosphere.

Based on our interviews, the average productive life of shrimp ponds in the Mahakam delta was 16 years. Assuming an average period of conversion to abandonment of 16 years, the total mean emission factor arising from mangrove conversion is  $33 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$  or  $120 \text{ Mg CO}_2\text{e ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ . The mean mangrove soil emission factor is  $25 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$  or  $90 \text{ Mg CO}_2\text{e ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ . But this does not include the carbon that would have been sequestered in the mangrove sites had they not been converted to shrimp ponds.

### 3.5. Land use carbon footprints of shrimp production

We calculated the land use carbon footprints of 2 types of shrimp production from aquaculture ponds: (1) the black tiger shrimp (*Peneaus monodon*) which is the primary export commodity of the Mahakam Delta; and (2) the overall shrimp production that includes 3 major shrimp species, i.e. tiger shrimp (*Peneaus monodon*), white shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) and spotted shrimps (*Metapeneaus brevirostris*).

The mean production rates of black tiger shrimp and of all shrimps

were  $56 \text{ kg ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$  and  $121 \text{ kg ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$  respectively. For the 16 year life of a shrimp pond the total black tiger shrimp production would be  $878 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$ . If  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  emissions are  $503.6 \text{ g CO}_2\text{e per kg}$  of shrimp produced (Hu et al., 2012), then the total  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  emissions produced by  $878 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$  of tiger shrimp is  $0.4 \text{ Mg CO}_2\text{e ha}^{-1}$ . If  $0.4 \text{ Mg CO}_2\text{e ha}^{-1}$  of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  emissions was produced during the black tiger shrimp production and added to the potential carbon loss from mangrove conversion ( $1925 \text{ Mg CO}_2\text{e ha}^{-1}$ ), the average  $\text{CO}_2\text{e}$  emissions from every kg of tiger shrimp produced in the Mahakam Delta would be  $4874 \text{ kg CO}_2\text{e}$ .

When the same method was applied to estimate all shrimp production, we obtain a mean land use carbon footprint of  $2250 \text{ kg CO}_2\text{e}$  for every kg of shrimp produced.

## 4. Discussion

### 4.1. Aboveground carbon stocks and structure

The mean aboveground carbon stocks of mangroves in this study

( $118 \pm 8 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$ ) accounted for 11% of the total ecosystem carbon stocks and are higher than IPCC default value for aboveground carbon stocks for mangroves in tropical wet region ( $86.4 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$ ; IPCC, 2014). Compared to other mangroves, the mean aboveground carbon stocks in the Mahakam Delta is similar to the tall mangroves in Pantanos de Centla, Mexico (Kauffman et al., 2015), Yucatan-Mexico (Adame et al., 2013) and India (Bhomia et al., 2016). The mean aboveground carbon stocks of the Mahakam Delta were at the low end of the mean of the aboveground carbon stocks of Indonesian mangroves ( $211 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$ ) (Murdiyarso et al., 2015).

We found that abandoned shrimp ponds had higher soil porewater salinity than the mangroves with mean salinity differences of 3 ppt. The seawater elements such as Ca, Mg, K and Na were introduced during shrimp raising activities and all the salts persist in the soil after pond's abandonment. Lack of tidal flushing and evaporation triggered salt crystallization and accumulation at the pond soils which can raise water salinity to levels unfavorable for shrimp growth as well for the plants (Banerjee et al., 2013; Towatana et al., 2002). Since the salinity levels in the abandoned ponds of the Mahakam Delta are still favorable for shrimp (less than 25 ppt), there were likely other factors that has led to abandonment of the ponds (e.g. disease outbreaks and dyke collapse due to high floods).

#### 4.2. Soils

We observed higher bulk density in the abandoned shrimp ponds than the mangroves. The increase in bulk density was also found in deforested mangrove sites in Kenya (Lang'at et al., 2014). Studies in mangrove soils have reported that tree mortality, organic matter decomposition and physical compaction resulted in surface elevation losses in mangrove soils (Cahoon et al., 2003; Krauss et al., 2010, 2014) which are reflected by an increase in bulk density (Lang'at et al., 2014). Similarly, studies in upland forests have shown the impacts of deforestation resulting in increased bulk density, decreased soil porosity, infiltration rates and hydraulic conductivity leading to soil compaction (Batey and McKenzie, 2006; Germer et al., 2010).

We also found highly significant differences in soil carbon concentration between the mangroves and abandoned ponds ( $p < 0.001$ ) at depths to 3 m. This underscores the importance of sampling the entire profile or at least to depths of 3 m in order to more thoroughly describe influences of land use on carbon dynamics.

Comparing the mean soil C stocks in the upper 1 m between mangroves ( $317 \pm 26 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$ ) and abandoned pond sites ( $273 \pm 13 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$ ) resulted in soil loss of  $44 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$  or 9 times lower than the soil loss measured up to 3 m ( $393 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$ ). Limiting soil loss to 1 m or less resulted in underestimates of the soil C stocks and carbon losses as differences in soil C concentration and bulk density were found below this depth.

Similarly, limiting the soil carbon stock measurements to 3 m results in an underestimate of the ecosystem carbon stocks of these deltaic mangroves. For example, we sampled the soils to 5 m depth in the Bayur mangrove and abandoned pond sites. The soil carbon concentrations at 3.7–3.75 m and 4.7–4.75 m depth in Bayur mangrove were 2.9% and 2.6% respectively. Similar values were obtained from the mean soil carbon concentrations in the abandoned ponds at both depths (2.5% and 2.8% respectively). The total soil carbon stocks to a depth of 5 m were  $1257 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$  (compared to soil C stocks to 3 m of  $879 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$ ). Inclusion of soil carbon at 3–5 m depth to the ecosystem carbon in Bayur site would increase the ecosystem carbon stocks substantially from  $1061 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$  to  $1410 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$ . This suggests that measurements of soil carbon stocks to 3 m in mangroves of deep alluvium is an underestimate of at least 33% of the total ecosystem carbon stocks.

Mangroves had higher soil carbon concentration compared to shrimp ponds at 0–15 cm, 15–30 cm, 30–50 cm and 50–100 cm depths ( $p < 0.0001$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ,  $p = 0.006$  and  $p = 0.56$  respectively; Fig. 2b).

The decline in the amount of organic matter in the abandoned ponds was likely due to decomposition of the organic matter in soils especially during periods when the ponds were drained after shrimp harvests and following abandonment (Turner, 2004; Towatana et al., 2002). Draining and limiting tidal flows likely created aerobic conditions favorable for carbon oxidation.

The mean mangrove soil carbon stocks in the Mahakam Delta ( $879 \pm 83 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$ ) are similar to the average mangrove soil carbon stocks across many sites in Indonesia ( $849 \pm 323 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$ ; Murdiyarso et al., 2015). Moreover, our results are substantially higher than the IPCC global default value for mangrove soils ( $471 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$ ; IPCC, 2014) (Table 3).

When mangroves are converted to shrimp ponds a dramatic decrease in soil carbon occurs. The clearing of mangrove trees and draining of mangrove soils led to a 45% reduction of the soil carbon stocks. This is equivalent to  $393 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$  ( $1442 \text{ Mg CO}_2\text{e ha}^{-1}$ ) of soil loss. Unlike upland forests where only the top 30 cm of soils were considered to be susceptible to carbon losses due to land use change (IPCC, 2006), drainage and oxidation of hydric soils in tropical wetlands affected the deeper soil layers (Hooijer et al., 2006; Kauffman et al., 2015). The losses reported here are similar or even less than the losses resulted from mangrove conversion to abandoned shrimp ponds in the Dominican Republic (Kauffman et al., 2014) and conversion to pastures in Mexico (Kauffman et al., 2015).

#### 4.3. Potential carbon emissions and emission factors

The losses due to land cover change in this study ( $1925 \text{ Mg CO}_2\text{e ha}^{-1}$ ) exceed that of early estimates of global emissions estimates from Pendleton et al. (2012) ( $935 \text{ Mg CO}_2\text{e ha}^{-1}$ ) and Donato et al. (2011) ( $411\text{--}1439 \text{ Mg CO}_2\text{e ha}^{-1}$ ). The potential emissions reported here are also greater than emissions arising from mangrove conversion to cattle pasture in Mexico ( $1464 \text{ Mg CO}_2\text{e ha}^{-1}$ ; Kauffman et al., 2015) and exceeds the IPCC global default value for the entire soil carbon stock (i.e.  $525 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$  compared to  $471 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$ ; IPCC, 2014). Different estimates of the ecosystem carbon loss resulted from different approaches or assumptions used in those studies. The Kauffman et al. (2015) calculation was based on mass equivalence loss from the top 1 m of mangrove soils. Pendleton et al. (2012) and Donato et al. (2011) estimates were not based on actual measurements but on an assumption that 25% soil was lost from the top 30 cm. Similarly, the land use change emissions reported in Järviö et al. (2017) were based on IPCC (2006) default value at 1 m soil depth.

A recent study on the extent of mangroves in the Mahakam Delta using 2015 radar Sentinel-1 imageries reported that the mangrove deforestation rate from 1994 to 2015 was  $2832 \text{ ha yr}^{-1}$  (Aslan, 2017). Thus, the annual  $\text{CO}_2$  emissions arising from mangrove conversion to shrimp ponds in the entire Mahakam Delta is estimated to be  $0.005 \text{ Pg CO}_2\text{e yr}^{-1}$ .

FAO (2007) reported that Indonesia's total mangrove area in 2005 was 2.9 Mha with an average deforestation rate of  $50,000 \text{ ha yr}^{-1}$  from 2000 to 2005. Based upon these data and assuming that deforestation rate was constant over the 20 years presented above, the Mahakam Delta that covers only 2% of Indonesia's mangrove area, accounted for 6% of Indonesia's annual mangrove deforestation rate. Assuming that the  $\text{CO}_2$  emissions following land use/land cover change in Indonesian mangroves would be similar to the emissions in the Mahakam Delta, the total potential  $\text{CO}_2$  emissions from mangrove deforestation in Indonesia would be  $0.096 \text{ Pg CO}_2\text{e yr}^{-1}$ . This number is at the lower end than what had been estimated by Murdiyarso et al. (2015) ( $0.07\text{--}0.21 \text{ Pg CO}_2\text{e yr}^{-1}$ ), which used the assumption that the emissions from mangrove deforestation was similar to the higher rates measured in the abandoned shrimp ponds in the Dominican Republic (Kauffman et al., 2014).

It is important to quantify longevity of the shrimp ponds in order to determine the magnitude of the carbon emissions relative to the

productivity of shrimp produced. The longevity of shrimp ponds in the Mahakam Delta (16 years with a range of 11–21 years) was longer than the global means reported by Kauffman et al. (2017). This estimate of pond longevity is based upon interviews with pond owners, personnel of local NGOs and district fisheries managers. Setiawan et al. (2015) also reported the lifetime of shrimp ponds in the Mahakam Delta to range from 15 to 25 years. Based upon our interviews and radar analysis from 1994 to 2005 (Aslan, 2017), some ponds that were established in the 90s are still active. The main factors resulting in pond abandonment in the Mahakam Delta included infrastructure failure (i.e. dyke collapse) and low shrimp productivity due to disease outbreaks. Globally, common causes of abandonment include disease outbreaks, soil acidification, pollution and market conditions (Rönnbäck, 1999; Tacon, 2002).

If the average time since mangrove deforestation was 16 years, the annual carbon emissions would be 33 Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup> or equivalent to 120 Mg CO<sub>2e</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>. This number is substantially higher than IPCC mean emission factor value (2 Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>) for organic wetlands soils after drainage (IPCC, 2006) and similar to emission factor from peat swamp conversion to oil palm plantations in West Kalimantan (127 Mg CO<sub>2e</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>; Basuki, 2017).

#### 4.4. Land use carbon footprints of shrimp production

The mean production rates of shrimp in the Mahakam Delta (121 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>) are dramatically lower than reported production estimates of 600–1000 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup> for traditional aquaculture pond production in Indonesia (Setiawan et al., 2015). This low shrimp productivity coupled with a high emission from land conversion resulted in a land use carbon footprint of 4874 kg CO<sub>2e</sub> for every kg of tiger shrimp produced and 2250 kg CO<sub>2e</sub> for all shrimp combined. Our estimation of the land use carbon footprint of shrimp is significantly higher than the mean ecosystem carbon footprint of shrimp in several tropical countries (1603 kg CO<sub>2e</sub> per kg of shrimp; Kauffman et al., 2017) and the Mekong Delta, Vietnam (184–282 kg CO<sub>2e</sub> per kg of shrimp; Järviö et al., 2017). Although our potential emissions from land use change is in the same range as reported by Kauffman et al. (2017) (1894 Mg CO<sub>2e</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>), higher ecosystem carbon footprint values than Kauffman et al. (2017) are due to their estimate of a shorter lifetime of the shrimp ponds (9 years) but with higher rates of shrimp production (275 kg of shrimp per year). The lower value reported by Järviö et al. (2017) are due to very low land use change GHG emissions and the assumption of a long steady productive life time of shrimp farming (50 years) in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam. Järviö et al. (2017) also only included emissions to 1 m depth which is an underestimate of the total soil losses and emissions from land use change.

To gain a perspective of the carbon emissions generated from shrimp production, we compared these emissions to common human activities. If 8887 g of CO<sub>2</sub> are emitted from combustion of 1 gallon of gasoline in automobiles (Federal Register, 2010), then the emissions from the production of 1 kg of black tiger shrimp is equivalent to

burning 548 gallons or 2074 L of gasoline. Similarly, the carbon footprint of 1 kg of all shrimp produced would be equivalent to 253 gallons or 958 L of gasoline consumed by automobiles.

Including carbon losses from land use into the carbon footprint calculation resulted in very large increases in estimates compared to other studies which do not include carbon losses from land use/cover change. For example, carbon footprints of shrimp that do not include land use was 3–15 kg CO<sub>2e</sub> per kg of shrimp (Nijdam et al., 2012). This highlights the importance of including carbon losses from deforestation or other land cover changes to the carbon footprint calculation (Henriksson et al., 2015; Järviö et al., 2017; Jonell and Henriksson, 2015; Kauffman et al., 2017).

Beyond the multitude ecosystem services that would be protected, conservation of all remaining mangroves would be a valuable strategy for climate change mitigation. This is because of the great capacity for carbon sequestration and the high vulnerability to loss through land conversion. The ecosystem carbon loss from mangrove conversion was 525 Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup> of which 393 Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup> came through depletion of soil carbon stocks. Recovery of this lost carbon would not be regained in a reasonable amount of time even if the sites were restored. Alongi (2014) reported that the mean carbon burial rate in mangroves to be 5 mm yr<sup>-1</sup> or 1.74 Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup>. If true, then 16 years of shrimp pond use in the Mahakam Delta resulted in a carbon loss equivalent to 226 years of soil carbon accumulation in natural mangroves.

## 5. Conclusions

Our study provides an accuracy improvement in soil C stocks estimation by measuring soil C stocks up to 3 m or beyond. This is important in climate change mitigation for two reasons: (1) sampling only to 1 m underestimates the carbon stocks and therefore the values of mangroves in climate change mitigation, and (2) limiting sampling to depths ≥ 1 m results in underestimates in the emissions of greenhouse gases when mangrove ecosystems are converted to other uses. The carbon loss associated with the low productivity of shrimp production results in a large land use carbon footprint underscoring the significant loss in the ecosystem service of carbon sequestration. In addition, there are many additional values maintained with the protection and conservation of these blue carbon ecosystems.

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## A. Appendix

**Table A.** Biomass allometric equations for mangrove species used in this study.

Nr.	Species	Allometric equation	R <sup>2</sup>	Source	Data Origin
1	<i>Rhizophora apiculata</i>	Wood biomass = 0.0695D <sup>2.644</sup> * ρ	0.89	Kauffman and Cole (2010)	Micronesia
		LOG Branch biomass = -2.02 + 2.37logD	0.88	Amira (2008)	West Borneo, Indonesia
		LOG Leaves biomass = -1.68 + 1.92logD	0.87	Ong et al. (2004)	Malaysia
		Root biomass = 0.00698 * D <sup>2.61</sup>	0.99	Ong et al. (2004)	Malaysia
		Stilt root biomass = 0.0209 * D <sup>2.55</sup>	0.84	Ong et al. (2004)	Malaysia

2	<i>Rhizophora mucronata</i>	AGB biomass = $0.251\rho D^{2.46}$ Root biomass = $0.199\rho^{0.899} D^{2.22}$ $\rho = 0.701 \pm 0.033$	0.98 Komiyama et al. (2005) 0.95 Komiyama et al. (2005)	Indonesia & Thailand Indonesia & Thailand
3	<i>Bruguiera gymnorrhiza</i>	LOG AGB Biomass = $-0.7309 + 2.3055 \log D$ Root biomass = $0.199 * \rho * 0.899 * D^{2.22}$	0.99 Clough and Scott, 1989 0.95 Komiyama et al. (2005)	Australia Thailand, Indonesia
4	<i>Bruguiera sexangula</i>	Stem biomass = $0.8902 (D^2 * H)^{0.0796}$ Branch&twigs biomass = $1.0293(D^2 * H)^{0.0126}$ Leaves biomass = $0.073(D^2 * H)^{0.0021}$ Root biomass = $0.199 * \rho * 0.899 * D^{2.22}$	0.98 Kusmana et al. (1992) 0.95 Kusmana et al. (1992) 0.88 Kusmana et al. (1992) 0.95 Komiyama et al. (2005)	East Sumatera, Indonesia East Sumatera, Indonesia East Sumatera, Indonesia Thailand, Indonesia
5	<i>Avicennia marina</i>	AGB = $0.185 * DBH^{2.352}$ Root biomass = $0.168 * D^{1.794}$ Total biomass = $0.291 * D^{2.260}$	0.98 Dharmawan and Siregar, 2008 0.98 Dharmawan and Siregar (2008) 0.86 Dharmawan and Siregar (2008)	West Java, Indonesia West Java, Indonesia West Java, Indonesia
6	<i>Sonneratia alba</i>	Wood biomass = $0.3841D^{2.101} * \rho$ Root biomass = $0.199 * \rho * 0.899 * D^{2.22}$	0.92 Kauffman and Cole (2010) 0.95 Komiyama et al. (2005)	Micronesia Thailand, Indonesia
7	<i>Lumnitzera racemosa</i>	WTOP = $0.184 * DBH^{2.384}$ Root biomass = $0.199 * \rho * 0.899 * D^{2.22}$	0.98 Kangkuso et al. (2015) 0.95 Komiyama et al. (2005)	South Sulawesi, Indonesia Thailand, Indonesia
8	Common equation for mangrove AGB biomass	WTOP = $0.251 * \rho * D^{2.46}$	0.98 Komiyama et al. (2005)	Thailand, Indonesia
9	Common equation for mangrove root biomass	WR = $0.199 * \rho * 0.899 * D^{2.22}$	0.95 Komiyama et al. (2005)	Thailand, Indonesia

## B. Detailed methods of carbon stock and emission measurements

### B.1. Measurements of standing dead trees and downed wood

Standing dead trees were classified to three classes following methods given by Kauffman and Donato (2012): Status 1 was assigned for dead trees without leaves; Status 2 for dead trees without secondary branches; and Status 3 for dead trees with only the trunk. Status 1 - dead tree biomass was estimated using the total plant biomass minus the leaves biomass (leaf biomass equation provided by Clough and Scott (1989) and Komiyama et al. (2005)) or by subtracting a constant of 2.5% of the aboveground biomass of the tree (Kauffman and Donato, 2012). Status 2 - was estimated using the total plant biomass minus secondary branches. A common method was to subtract a total of 10–20% of biomass including the leaves and some branches or adjusted to specific settings (Kauffman and Donato, 2012). Status 3 - was estimated by calculating the tree volume of truncated cone using the equation described by Kauffman and Donato (2012).

Downed wood of different sizes were measured using the planar intersect technique. The diameter of each woody debris that intersects a vertical sampling plane is measured (Kauffman and Donato, 2012; Van Wagner, 1968). Four transects of 14 m in length were established in the center of each plot. The first transect was set at an angle of 45° from the main transect and the other three were set 90° clockwise from the first transect. Based on the diameter, they were classified into small debris (2.5–7.5 cm) which was measured along the last 5 m of the transect; and large debris (> 7.5 cm) which was measured along 12 m from the second meter of the transect (Kauffman and Donato, 2012). Specific gravity of wood debris samples (Table 2.2) were measured in the lab and used to calculate the biomass using the formula outlined in Kauffman and Donato (2012) and converted to C stock using a factor of 0.47 which was derived from the mean C concentration of 386 samples of wood from all mangrove species measured in this study.

### B.2. Ecosystem C stocks

The ecosystem carbon stock was estimated by summing all carbon pools (IPCC, 2006):

$$\text{Total carbon pool (Mg C ha}^{-1}\text{)} = C_{\text{aboveground}} + C_{\text{wood debris}} + C_{\text{soil}} + C_{\text{belowground}} \quad (\text{B1})$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Total carbon pool} &= \text{Total ecosystem carbon pools (Mg C ha}^{-1}\text{)} \\
 C_{\text{aboveground}} &= \text{Total aboveground vegetation carbon pool (Mg C ha}^{-1}\text{)} \\
 C_{\text{dead wood}} &= \text{Total dead wood carbon pool (Mg C ha}^{-1}\text{)} \\
 C_{\text{soil}} &= \text{Total soil carbon pool (Mg C ha}^{-1}\text{)} \\
 C_{\text{belowground}} &= \text{Total belowground plant mass carbon pool (Mg C ha}^{-1}\text{)}
 \end{aligned}$$

### B.3. Emissions from conversion of mangroves into abandoned shrimp ponds

The potential emissions arising from mangrove conversion into abandoned shrimp ponds were calculated by stock-difference method to estimate emissions due to land use change (IPCC, 2006; Kauffman et al., 2015).

$$\Delta C_{\text{LU}} = \Delta C_{\text{AB}} + \Delta C_{\text{BB}} + \Delta C_{\text{DW}} + \Delta C_{\text{SOC}} \quad (\text{B2})$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 C_{\text{LU}} &= \text{Change in carbon stocks due to land use} \\
 C_{\text{AB}} &= \text{Change in aboveground biomass} \\
 C_{\text{BB}} &= \text{Change in belowground biomass} \\
 C_{\text{DW}} &= \text{Change in dead wood} \\
 C_{\text{SOC}} &= \text{Change in soil organic carbon.}
 \end{aligned}$$

#### B.3.1. Land use carbon footprints of shrimp production

We used the following equation to determine the carbon footprints of shrimp produced in aquaculture ponds resulting from mangrove conversions (Kauffman et al., 2017):

$$FP_c = (C_{\text{conv}} + e_{\text{N}_2\text{O}}) / (P_{\text{prod}} \times P_{\text{life}} \times C_{\text{f}_{\text{meat}}}) \quad (\text{B3})$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 FP_c &= \text{Land use carbon footprint} \\
 C_{\text{conv}} &= \text{Total loss of ecosystem C (Mg CO}_2\text{e) due to land cover change} \\
 e_{\text{N}_2\text{O}} &= \text{N}_2\text{O emissions during active production phases in shrimp ponds (Mg CO}_2\text{e)} \\
 P_{\text{prod}} &= \text{Production of shrimp (Mg of shrimp year}^{-1}\text{)} \\
 P_{\text{life}} &= \text{Productive life of the land use (years)} \\
 C_{\text{f}_{\text{meat}}} &= \text{Proportion (\%)} \text{ of the shrimp that is meat}
 \end{aligned}$$

**Table C.** Soil bulk density, C concentration, C density and C stocks of soils in the mangroves and abandoned shrimp ponds in the Mahakam Delta, East Kalimantan. Values are mean  $\pm$  standard error unless noted otherwise. The mean values represent bulk density, C concentration and C density. The total soil C stock is the sum of the C stocks from all soil depths  $\pm$  standard error. Total soil carbon pool (Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup>) normalized to mineral soil mass. (Source: this study)

SITE	Soil depth (cm)	Bulk density (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	Carbon concentration (%)	C density (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	C stock (Mg C ha <sup>-1</sup> )
Tunu mangrove	0-15	0.40 $\pm$ 0.04	8.75 $\pm$ 1.2	0.03 $\pm$ 0.005	51 $\pm$ 8
	15-30	0.43 $\pm$ 0.03	10.00 $\pm$ 1.2	0.04 $\pm$ 0.005	62 $\pm$ 79
	30-50	0.41 $\pm$ 0.03	10.57 $\pm$ 0.9	0.04 $\pm$ 0.002	84 $\pm$ 4
	50-100	0.59 $\pm$ 0.07	5.71 $\pm$ 1.3	0.03 $\pm$ 0.002	146 $\pm$ 8
	100-300	0.52 $\pm$ 0.07	7.56 $\pm$ 1.7	0.04 $\pm$ 0.005	710 $\pm$ 105
Mean		0.47 $\pm$ 0.04	8.52 $\pm$ 0.87	0.04 $\pm$ 0.00	1054 $\pm$ 91
Salette mangrove	0-15	0.46 $\pm$ 0.02	6.74 $\pm$ 0.5	0.03 $\pm$ 0.002	46 $\pm$ 2
	15-30	0.52 $\pm$ 0.01	5.48 $\pm$ 0.2	0.03 $\pm$ 0.001	43 $\pm$ 2
	30-50	0.53 $\pm$ 0.02	5.17 $\pm$ 0.4	0.03 $\pm$ 0.002	55 $\pm$ 4
	50-100	0.62 $\pm$ 0.03	4.27 $\pm$ 0.6	0.03 $\pm$ 0.003	131 $\pm$ 15
	100-300	0.62 $\pm$ 0.05	3.78 $\pm$ 0.1	0.02 $\pm$ 0.002	471 $\pm$ 47
Mean		0.55 $\pm$ 0.03	5.09 $\pm$ 0.51	0.03 $\pm$ 0.00	746 $\pm$ 62
Bayur mangrove	0-15	0.42 $\pm$ 0.04	10.31 $\pm$ 0.8	0.04 $\pm$ 0.004	63 $\pm$ 6
	15-30	0.37 $\pm$ 0.04	10.29 $\pm$ 0.8	0.04 $\pm$ 0.003	55 $\pm$ 4
	30-50	0.37 $\pm$ 0.04	10.93 $\pm$ 1.0	0.04 $\pm$ 0.003	77 $\pm$ 5
	50-100	0.41 $\pm$ 0.05	8.19 $\pm$ 0.8	0.03 $\pm$ 0.002	159 $\pm$ 10
	100-300	0.58 $\pm$ 0.02	4.75 $\pm$ 0.1	0.03 $\pm$ 0.001	553 $\pm$ 19
Mean		0.43 $\pm$ 0.04	8.89 $\pm$ 1.13	0.04 $\pm$ 0.00	907 $\pm$ 27
Labu-labu mangrove	0-15	0.26 $\pm$ 0.05	18.83 $\pm$ 4.1	0.04 $\pm$ 0.004	61 $\pm$ 6
	15-30	0.30 $\pm$ 0.06	18.47 $\pm$ 5.5	0.05 $\pm$ 0.012	68 $\pm$ 18
	30-50	0.41 $\pm$ 0.09	11.45 $\pm$ 3.9	0.03 $\pm$ 0.004	61 $\pm$ 9
	50-100	0.46 $\pm$ 0.03	6.36 $\pm$ 0.9	0.03 $\pm$ 0.004	147 $\pm$ 21
	100-300	0.49 $\pm$ 0.06	4.78 $\pm$ 0.4	0.02 $\pm$ 0.001	447 $\pm$ 26
Mean		0.39 $\pm$ 0.04	11.98 $\pm$ 2.94	0.03 $\pm$ 0.00	783 $\pm$ 60
Muara Berau	0-15	0.48 $\pm$ 0.03	5.29 $\pm$ 0.13	0.03 $\pm$ 0.001	38 $\pm$ 2

mangrove	15-30	0.53 ± 0.02	4.85 ± 0.28	0.03 ± 0.001	38 ± 1
	30-50	0.57 ± 0.03	5.57 ± 0.53	0.03 ± 0.002	62 ± 3
	50-100	0.57 ± 0.02	4.84 ± 0.35	0.03 ± 0.001	137 ± 5
	100-300	0.60 ± 0.04	4.73 ± 0.76	0.03 ± 0.006	574 ± 119
	Mean	0.55 ± 0.02	5.06 ± 0.16	0.03 ± 0.00	849 ± 117
Lerong mangrove	0-15	0.54 ± 0.04	3.83 ± 0.4	0.02 ± 0.002	30 ± 2
	15-30	0.60 ± 0.06	3.75 ± 0.7	0.02 ± 0.003	31 ± 4
	30-50	0.64 ± 0.04	3.97 ± 0.9	0.02 ± 0.003	48 ± 7
	50-100	0.57 ± 0.06	4.55 ± 0.7	0.02 ± 0.002	120 ± 11
	100-300	0.76 ± 0.04	2.78 ± 0.4	0.02 ± 0.004	426 ± 71
Mean	0.62 ± 0.04	3.78 ± 0.29	0.02 ± 0.00	656 ± 73	
Kadutan mangrove	0-15	0.5 ± 0.04	5.06 ± 0.3	0.03 ± 0.002	38 ± 3
	30-50	0.45 ± 0.02	6.82 ± 0.21	0.03 ± 0.001	61 ± 2
	50-100	0.58 ± 0.02	4.63 ± 0.39	0.03 ± 0.002	135 ± 11
	100-300	0.62 ± 0.04	5.11 ± 1.36	0.03 ± 0.006	594 ± 113
	Mean	0.53 ± 0.03	5.41 ± 0.38	0.03 ± 0.00	867 ± 114
Rinding mangrove	0-15	0.52 ± 0.03	5.47 ± 0.46	0.03 ± 0.003	43 ± 4
	15-30	0.56 ± 0.04	5.34 ± 0.45	0.03 ± 0.002	44 ± 4
	30-50	0.57 ± 0.07	5.44 ± 0.43	0.03 ± 0.004	61 ± 8
	50-100	0.64 ± 0.1	5.26 ± 0.43	0.03 ± 0.004	163 ± 22
	100-300	0.59 ± 0.06	4.31 ± 0.54	0.02 ± 0.002	484 ± 32
Mean	0.57 ± 0.02	5.17 ± 0.22	0.03 ± 0.00	795 ± 49	
Kanyuran mangrove	0-15	0.46 ± 0.04	4.41 ± 0.62	0.02 ± 0.002	29 ± 2
	15-30	0.47 ± 0.07	4.22 ± 0.46	0.02 ± 0.003	31 ± 5
	30-50	0.60 ± 0.04	5.63 ± 1.68	0.04 ± 0.013	72 ± 26
	50-100	0.66 ± 0.07	3.81 ± 0.33	0.02 ± 0.003	121 ± 13
	100-300	0.68 ± 0.04	2.68 ± 0.52	0.02 ± 0.003	345 ± 53
Mean	0.57 ± 0.05	4.15 ± 0.48	0.02 ± 0.00	598 ± 78	
Banjar mangrove	0-15	0.25 ± 0.07	29.03 ± 2.48	0.08 ± 0.03	114 ± 40
	15-30	0.16 ± 0.02	21.14 ± 3.88	0.04 ± 0.007	53 ± 11
	30-50	0.25 ± 0.04	22.21 ± 1.42	0.05 ± 0.009	108 ± 19
	50-100	0.26 ± 0.04	20.30 ± 2.60	0.05 ± 0.003	243 ± 15
	100-300	0.37 ± 0.03	13.82 ± 2.61	0.05 ± 0.011	1013 ± 221
Mean	0.26 ± 0.03	21.3 ± 2.42	0.05 ± 0.01	1532 ± 209	
Tunu pond	0-15	0.73 ± 0.04	3.02 ± 0.42	0.02 ± 0.002	32 ± 3
	15-30	0.63 ± 0.06	4.49 ± 0.71	0.03 ± 0.002	40 ± 4
	30-50	0.64 ± 0.04	3.96 ± 0.52	0.02 ± 0.003	49 ± 5
	50-100	0.58 ± 0.04	4.24 ± 0.50	0.02 ± 0.003	85 ± 27
	100-300	0.82 ± 0.04	3.57 ± 0.26	0.03 ± 0.001	26 ± 26
Mean	0.68 ± 0.04	3.86 ± 0.26	0.03 ± 0.00	232 ± 51	
Bayur Pond	0-15	0.53 ± 0.03	3.24 ± 0.07	0.02 ± 0.001	26 ± 1
	15-30	0.71 ± 0.01	3.44 ± 0.20	0.02 ± 0.001	37 ± 2
	30-50	0.71 ± 0.05	3.88 ± 0.14	0.03 ± 0.001	55 ± 3
	50-100	0.60 ± 0.05	4.46 ± 0.12	0.03 ± 0.002	93 ± 13
	100-300	0.60 ± 0.03	4.72 ± 0.33	0.03 ± 0.002	29 ± 29
Mean	0.63 ± 0.04	3.95 ± 0.28	0.02 ± 0.00	240 ± 33	
Lerong pond	0-15	0.49 ± 0.02	4.67 ± 0.12	0.02 ± 0.001	34 ± 2
	15-30	0.51 ± 0.02	4.47 ± 0.12	0.02 ± 0.001	34 ± 2
	30-50	0.60 ± 0.04	4.54 ± 0.15	0.03 ± 0.001	54 ± 3
	50-100	0.64 ± 0.01	4.69 ± 0.13	0.03 ± 0.001	147 ± 6
	100-300	0.54 ± 0.03	5.95 ± 0.37	0.03 ± 0.001	231 ± 56
Mean	0.56 ± 0.03	4.86 ± 0.28	0.03 ± 0.00	500 ± 53	
Kadutan pond	0-15	0.35 ± 0.06	7.9 ± 0.84	0.03 ± 0.002	39 ± 3
	15-30	0.37 ± 0.03	7.05 ± 0.58	0.03 ± 0.002	38 ± 4
	30-50	0.46 ± 0.04	5.76 ± 0.70	0.03 ± 0.001	51 ± 3
	50-100	0.48 ± 0.03	5.43 ± 0.62	0.03 ± 0.002	128 ± 11
	100-300	0.58 ± 0.02	4.02 ± 0.20	0.02 ± 0.001	461 ± 21
Mean	0.45 ± 0.04	6.05 ± 0.68	0.03 ± 0.00	717 ± 26	
Muara Berau pond	0-15	0.45 ± 0.08	4.44 ± 0.26	0.02 ± 0.003	30 ± 5
	15-30	0.48 ± 0.02	4.96 ± 0.18	0.02 ± 0.001	36 ± 2
	30-50	0.50 ± 0.02	4.71 ± 0.15	0.02 ± 0.001	47 ± 2

	50-100	0.48 ± 0.02	4.93 ± 0.23	0.02 ± 0.002	119 ± 11
	100-300	0.58 ± 0.02	3.81 ± 0.16	0.02 ± 0.001	360 ± 44
Mean		0.50 ± 0.02	4.57 ± 0.21	0.02 ± 0.00	592 ± 46
Salette pond	0-15	0.62 ± 0.05	6.01 ± 0.55	0.04 ± 0.002	54 ± 3
	15-30	0.63 ± 0.03	5.57 ± 0.29	0.04 ± 0.002	53 ± 3
	30-50	0.65 ± 0.03	6.89 ± 1.53	0.04 ± 0.007	86 ± 14
	50-100	0.67 ± 0.06	4.28 ± 0.19	0.03 ± 0.002	106 ± 14
	100-300	0.69 ± 0.05	5.01 ± 0.65	0.03 ± 0.003	75 ± 62
Mean		0.65 ± 0.01	5.55 ± 0.44	0.04 ± 0.00	374 ± 80
Sepatin pond	0-15	0.43 ± 0.04	5.19 ± 0.34	0.02 ± 0.002	32 ± 3
	15-30	0.43 ± 0.06	6.10 ± 0.43	0.03 ± 0.002	38 ± 4
	30-50	0.50 ± 0.03	6.74 ± 0.94	0.03 ± 0.007	69 ± 13
	50-100	0.53 ± 0.06	5.09 ± 0.49	0.03 ± 0.002	131 ± 9
	100-300	0.48 ± 0.04	5.12 ± 0.28	0.02 ± 0.001	367 ± 83
Mean		0.47 ± 0.02	5.65 ± 0.33	0.03 ± 0.00	637 ± 67
Benati dalam pond	0-15	0.43 ± 0.04	4.29 ± 0.14	0.02 ± 0.002	28 ± 3
	15-30	0.50 ± 0.05	4.40 ± 0.18	0.02 ± 0.002	33 ± 4
	30-50	0.55 ± 0.02	4.19 ± 0.07	0.02 ± 0.001	46 ± 3
	50-100	0.57 ± 0.04	4.21 ± 0.25	0.02 ± 0.002	115 ± 10
	100-300	0.59 ± 0.04	4.07 ± 0.53	0.02 ± 0.003	313 ± 94
Mean		0.53 ± 0.03	4.23 ± 0.06	0.02 ± 0.00	536 ± 84
Tanjung nipah pond	0-15	0.76 ± 0.09	4.42 ± 0.11	0.03 ± 0.003	50 ± 4
	15-30	0.63 ± 0.03	4.95 ± 0.39	0.03 ± 0.002	46 ± 3
	30-50	0.55 ± 0.05	6.01 ± 0.64	0.03 ± 0.001	61 ± 4
	50-100	0.60 ± 0.02	5.99 ± 0.47	0.04 ± 0.003	130 ± 28
	100-300	0.81 ± 0.02	3.57 ± 0.42	0.03 ± 0.003	80 ± 47
Mean		0.67 ± 0.05	4.99 ± 0.47	0.03 ± 0.00	367 ± 70
Perangat pond	0-15	0.43 ± 0.01	5.98 ± 0.56	0.03 ± 0.002	38 ± 4
	15-30	0.48 ± 0.05	6.44 ± 0.82	0.03 ± 0.002	43 ± 2
	30-50	0.45 ± 0.05	7.70 ± 0.73	0.03 ± 0.003	66 ± 5
	50-100	0.51 ± 0.05	6.63 ± 1.18	0.03 ± 0.003	158 ± 16
	100-300	0.51 ± 0.02	4.28 ± 0.29	0.02 ± 0.001	357 ± 50
Mean		0.48 ± 0.02	6.20 ± 0.56	0.03 ± 0.00	663 ± 52

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